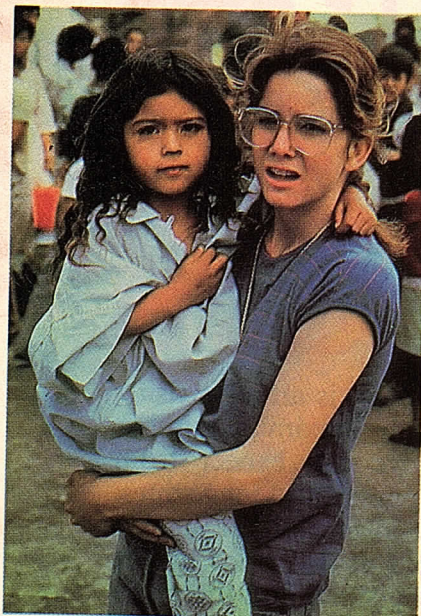


VIDEO vibes



Fatal choice

ONCE one of television's best-loved stars as Laura Ingalls in *Little House On The Prairie*, Melissa Gilbert is working to break down the 'little girl' image. At 22, she's definitely a woman and, as if to prove the point, has taken on some tough movie roles.

Late last year she starred with George C. Scott and Jacqueline Bisset in a telemovie titled *Choices*, in which she played a pregnant 19-year-old college student faced with the agonising decision of whether to have an abortion.

The film fuelled the ongoing debate about legal and moral issues surrounding abortion.

While its plotline was not novel, the film told a fictitious story. Not so Melissa's earlier film *Choices Of The Heart* (Sundowner Home Video), based on the true story of young student Jane Donovan who became a missionary and while working with the poor in El Salvador was murdered by militiamen.

ABOVE: Melissa Gilbert as Jane Donovan, with a child orphan, in *Choices Of The Heart*.



Frankenstein lives!

TRANSYLVANIA, in central Romania, is rich in natural resources, providing the country with much of its natural gas.

It's also the home of supernatural legends — Dracula and Frankenstein's monster.

It's those legends which inspire the quirky comedy *Transylvania 65000* — a new video release on the Roadshow label.

Starring Jeff Goldblum, Ed Begley Jr and Joseph Bologna, it tells of two reporters assigned by the editor of their paper — a tacky journal called *The Sensation* — to find Frankenstein.

Protestations that the legend is a piece of fiction fall on deaf ears.

So Jack Harrison (Goldblum) and his partner Mack Turner

(Begley, pictured above, with Frankenstein) take off on what they're convinced is going to be a wild goose chase.

They're further depressed when they find Transylvania is just a quaint, cosy little village with nothing more dangerous than a wacky waiter at their hotel.

Just when all seems hopeless, they stumble upon the mysterious Dr Malaqua (Bologna), who has had his licence revoked.

This leads to the discovery of a laboratory and what seems to be a werewolf, a surgically-reconstructed monster and a female vampire!

But all is not as it seems.

Once you tune into the off-beat humor it's a very funny film.

Freeze Frames

WITH the release of Sylvester Stallone's new movie *Cobra*, Warner Brothers in America has declared war on video pirates, offering rewards for pirated copies of the film or information leading to prosecution and conviction of any person dealing in illegal video copies. Perhaps if that doesn't work, they can threaten to let Stallone loose ... if *Cobra* is any indication he'd wipe out piracy in no time! *Cobra*, which is having the biggest launch of any film, with 2131 prints released simultaneously, comes hot on the heels

of Stallone's new movie deal with United Artists (who backed Sly when he was trying to get *Rocky* off the ground) which will see his White Eagle Entertainment company make 10 pix in the next six years.

PolyGram Records and Virgin Video have teamed up to form a new company — Virgin PolyGram Video. Virgin, based in London, recently bought the VCL label, so with an expanded catalogue is looking to move into the mainstream home video market. Previously, PolyGram distributed its own and Virgin's predominantly music-based videos through record stores.

DUE for release next month by 7 Keys is the Sting movie *Bring On The Night*, a semi-documentary about the blond pop superstar. Songs featured include hits he had while lead singer of Police, and even a version of the *Flintstones* theme song!